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Agenda item 142

STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Annex

The following entries should read:

Cape Verde c/	16 March 1995
Colombia (Protocol I) c/	1 September 1993
(Protocol II)	14 August 1995
Czech Republic c/	5 February 1993
Guinea c/	11 July 1984
Mongolia b/ c/	6 December 1995
Namibia c/	17 June 1994
Portugal c/	27 May 1992
Romania c/	21 June 1990
Rwanda c/	19 November 1984
Slovakia c/	2 April 1993

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PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[15 August 1996]

By virtue of Act No. 21 of 31 May 1995, the Republic of Panama approved the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and deposited the instrument of ratification on 18 September 1995.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: English]

[26 August 1996]

1. Additional Protocols I and II were signed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 12 December 1977 and ratified on 4 August 1989; the instrument of ratification was transmitted to the depositary, the Government of Switzerland, on 29 September 1989. At the time of ratification, a reservation was made regarding recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission (in accordance with article 90 of Additional Protocol I). The Russian Federation is a party to the Protocols as the successor State of the USSR.

2. In 1993 the Russian Federation took an active part in the International Conference on the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts held at Geneva and organized by the Government of Switzerland, and in 1995 in the Intergovernmental Expert Meeting on the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts. In the same year, a Russian delegation participated in the twenty-sixth international conference of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

3. The Russian Federation supported the adoption by the Review Conference of the 1980 Inhumane Weapons Convention of Protocol IV to the Convention, on Blinding Laser Weapons, and Protocol II, on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, with the amendments introduced on 3 May 1996. The Russian Federation intends in the near future to begin the process of ratification of these international legal instruments. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has begun drawing up the necessary instructions to the armed forces. In addition, a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines, introduced in 1994 by a Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. B. N. Yeltsin, is in effect in the Russian Federation.

4. The new Criminal Code of the Russian Federation was adopted on 13 June 1996 (it will enter into force on 1 January 1997); its article 356 provides for strict criminal liability (a prison sentence) for the use of means and methods of engaging in military action that are prohibited under the terms of the 1977 Additional Protocols.

5. On 20 July 1996, the President of the Russian Federation signed a Decree on State support for the Russian Red Cross Society which sets out a body of measures to facilitate improvements in the activity of the Red Cross in the Russian Federation.